Soldiers' Text-Book;

OR, CONFIDENCE IN THE HOUR OF WAR.

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Author of "The Morning and Night Watches," "Mind and Words of Jesus," etc.

"Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though WAR should rise against me, IN THIS WILL I BE CONFIDENT." Ps. 27: 3.

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THE SOLDIER'S TEXT-BOOK.

SOLDIERS! I have compiled for your use this small "Pocket Companion," consisting of a few Texts selected from the Word of God.

The music of the old Sabbath bell of your city or village sanctuaries is now strange to you. But these glorious Bible-truths, like the stars of heaven, shine with an unchanged and eternal luster in all climes. They can prove messengers of peace and consolation in the hospital-ward or in the bivouac, as well as amid the homes of your happy fatherland.

Under the words (as a motto-verse) of an old soldier and warrior-king, who lived 3000 years ago, I have placed a verse for meditation, Morning and Evening. These, by the blessing of God, may prove "crumbs of comfort"—food for your souls—when duty, or danger, or weak-

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ness, may preclude more lengthened reading or continuous thought.

I know that it matters not by whom your bugles are sounded, when they stir and nerve the courage of thousands on the field of battle. It matters not by whom the Highland pibroch sends its thrilling summons to the hearts of my own brave countrymen—it is a summons never sent in vain.

Should these few peaceful notes of the "Gospel-trumpet" inspire one drooping spirit among you with confidence or hope, forgive the feebleness of the effort on my part, and to God give all the glory!

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FIRST MORNING OF MONTH.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.—Deut. 33: 27.

THE floods may be deep, but the everlasting arms are deeper still. The infinite necessities of man are surpassed by the infinite help, and succor, and comforts of God. When *he* gives, it is "exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think."

EVENING.

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.—Heb. 13: 8.

Since I left friends, and kindred, and home, strange vicissitudes have befallen me; but here is one Friend who changeth not. Blessed Jesus! Thou art infinite, immutable! Of every thing else it may be said, "They shall perish," *but* "THOU remainest."

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SECOND MORNING.

We have no might against this great company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.—2 Chron. 20: 12.

The enemy may be like grasshoppers for multitude, but a breath from the Almighty is able to scatter them like chaff before the whirlwind. Give us help from trouble, Lord; for vain is the help of man. "The battle is not ours, but God's."

EVENING.

Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive, and let thy widows trust in me.—Jer. 49: 11.

"The Lord will provide." He will be a Father to the fatherless, and a Husband to the widow. He is a *wise* Provider—a *kind* Provider—a *rich* Provider. With him as their friend and portion, they need no other.

THIRD MORNING.

Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us unto God.—1 Peter 3 : 18.

And shall I murmur? I, a poor sinner deserving nothing but wrath, *justly* suffering, when he, the innocent Lamb of God, murmured *not?* But for the pains of that sinless, spotless Victim, *my* pains must have been *for ever.*

EVENING.

I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee: be strong and of a good courage.—Josh. 1 : 5, 6.

What an argument for boldness in the day of suffering or in the hour of conflict! "God is for me: who can be against me?" "Through God we shalt do valiantly." "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."

FOURTH MORNING.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.—2 Peter 3: 13.

Blessed hope! beyond this sin-stricken, woe-worn world, there is a heaven of "righteousness." It is secured to me by the promise of a God that can not lie. Am I "looking" for it? am I *ready* for it?

EVENING.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—1 Tim. 1: 15.

This brief verse preaches to me a whole Gospel. Jesus, a Saviour *for the chief of sinners!* Resting my weary soul on such a golden saying, I am resigned to suffer; I am prepared to die.

FIFTH MORNING.

The cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.—Josh. 14: 12.

"Who will bring me into the strong city? . . . Wilt not thou, O God?" Let me feel this blessed confidence in thy presence and help. No power of man can withstand thy might. "The Lord gave the word. . . . Kings of armies did flee apace."—*Ps.* 68: 12.

EVENING.

Verily he is a God that Judgeth in the earth.—Psalm 58; 11.

What a mournful reflection would it be were there "*no God*"! —were all that is now befalling us the result of *accident* and *chance*! But there is One on high ruling among the nations, who "judgeth righteous judgment." "The Lord reigneth; let the earth be glad."

SIXTH MORNING.

The children of Judah prevailed because they relied upon the Lord God of their fathers.—2 Chron. 13: 18.

Let this be my confidence in the hour of battle: I rely on "my fathers' God." "Our fathers trusted in thee, O God! they trusted, and thou didst deliver them." "This God shall be our God for ever and ever."

EVENING.

The prayer of faith will save the sick.—James 5: 15.

Am I now laid on a sick bed? the prayer of faith is still omnipotent to save me. If it be thy will, O God, let not this sickness be "unto death." Nevertheless, "not my will, but thine, be done." I put my case into the hands of the Great Physician, and leave it there.

SEVENTH MORNING.

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us.—1 John 3: 16.

What a love was this! I may be called in battle to lay down my life in fighting for my *friends*. *He* laid down his life in fighting for his *enemies*. After *such* a pledge of his love, I may well trust his faithfulness in all that befalls me.

EVENING.

And he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.—Acts 7: 55.

Blessed Jesus! let me be living by faith on thee now, that, should I be hurried into sudden death, I may also behold thee waiting to welcome me to thy kingdom, and be ready, like thy servant, to "fall asleep."

EIGHTH MORNING.

He will swallow up death in victory.—Isaiah 25 : 8.

Blessed consummation! The worst evil I can fear is death; and yet, if I be a true believer,—a subject of grace and an heir of glory,—the hour of death is changed into the hour of victory. Thanks be to God, who giveth me the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.

EVENING.

The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.—Psalm 29 : 11.

"Strength" and "peace"—the two things I most need—*strength* to bear and to suffer; *peace* in the midst of much to cause uneasiness and pain. God promises both; he gives grace equal to the hour of trial. "As thy days, *so* shall thy strength be."

NINTH MORNING.

To depart and be with Christ, which is far better.—Phil. 1: 23.

Better indeed! if so the will of God be. Away from sorrow, suffering, sin. I desire to have no trust in a dying hour, but in a dying, ever-living Saviour! Christ, and Christ only, is in me "the hope of glory."

EVENING.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth, even for ever.—Psalm 125: 2.

What are the most impregnable of earth's bulwarks, in comparison with the security of the everlasting covenant: and *my* security, if I am indeed a believer in Jesus?

TENTH MORNING.

I know their sorrows.—Exodus 3: 7.

Jesus speaks here! He *knows* my sorrows, for he has *felt* them! Am I now suffering pain, bowed down with bodily weakness, or harassed with anticipated trial?—let me think of Him who with tender sensitiveness *can* enter and *does* enter into every pang that rends the heart!

EVENING.

I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.—2 Tim. 1: 12.

What a glorious creed! My soul, is it thine? Truly I need not dread "battle, or murder, or sudden death," if I have such a helmet as this—"*the hope of salvation!*"

ELEVENTH MORNING.

The Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee.—Deut. 23: 14.

What a Sentinel is here! The pillar-cloud of Jehovah's presence with me by day, the pillar of fire by night. The thought may well soothe me in pain, animate me in duty, and prepare me for trial. "God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."

EVENING.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.—John 6: 37.

He might long ere now have cast me off for ever. How wondrous his patience! A poor, worthless cumberer spared! At this hour the golden gates of mercy are still open—God is waiting to be gracious.

TWELFTH MORNING.

O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done.—Matt. 26: 42.

Every cup is put into our hands by God. He has some gracious end in mingling it. How soothing to cherish the Saviour's spirit of meek submission! He is "*my Father.*" That *word* may well lull every misgiving and fear!

EVENING.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.—Psalm 32: 1.

Do I know this blessedness? Have I fled to the Lord Jesus as my only Saviour? Do I feel that all the transgressions of my past life are in him freely forgiven? What a sustaining hope is this for a living—what a smooth pillow for a dying hour!

THIRTEENTH MORNING.

The Lord reigneth. Psalm—97: 1.

Sublime thought! The reins of universal government in God's hand. All that befalls me decreed by him. "Man proposeth, but God disposeth." "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

EVENING.

I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinketh on me.—Psalm 40: 17.

Many distant and beloved relations and friends are now "thinking on me;" the reflection cheers and revives my spirit. A mightier than human friend is doing the same. An eye in heaven is watching me, and a heart in heaven is feeling for me. "THE LORD is very pitiful, and of tender mercy!"

FOURTEENTH MORNING.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.—Psalm 25: 10

It may not *seem* so; at present, mine may be a path of perplexity and pain, toil and weariness; but God has some wise end in all his leadings. He will guide me by a right way. Let me trust him if I can not trace him.

EVENING.

Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.—Psalm 61: 3.

There is no greater argument for trusting in God for the future, than remembering his kindness and faithfulness in the past. "Thou *hast* been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."

FIFTEENTH MORNING.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying; neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.—Rev. 21: 4.

Happy prospect! when I shall forget my present aching hours, this racked body and wearied spirit, and be ushered into the bright sunshine of a tearless, painless, sorrowless world. "Oh that I had wings like dove, for then would I flee away and be at rest."

EVENING.

In my Father's house are many mansions.—John 14: 2.

The home of earth I may never see again; the music of earthly home-voices may never again greet my ears; but I have a Father's home in heavan, where suffering and sin shall never more be either felt or feared. Lord,

teach me, as a *pilgrim* here, to "desire" this "Better Country."

SIXTEENTH MORNING.

We may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.—Heb 13 : 6.

What a glorious motto in a time of trouble! The power of man is finite; it can go no further than Omnipotence permits. But the resources of God are infinite, "What time I am afraid I will trust in thee!"

EVENING.

The shields of the earth belong unto God.—Psalm 47 ; 9.

I adore thy sovereignty, O thou Governor among nations! Kings, princes, and monarchs, are in thy hand. What a comfort to feel assured that no enemy is allowed to go further than thou permittest! "The Lord sitteth upon the floods, yea, the Lord sitteth King forever."

SEVENTEENTH MORNING.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.—James 4; 8.

What an encouragement to the faint and weary soul, when home is distant, friends absent, foes around, heart and flesh failing, that the Friend of all friends is ever near! "I will call upon the Lord, who worthy to be praised. *So* shall I be saved from mine enemies."

EVENING.

Thou which hast showed me great and sore troubles shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.—Psalm 71; 20.

I shall rest in this gracious assurance. I may have been recently brought to the brink of destruction—"verily a step between me and death!" But I am still spared, a miracle of mercy. Lord, make me also a miracle of grace.

EIGHTEENTH MORNING.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.—Rom. 8: 28.

Am I called of God? Am I conscious, however feebly, of loving him? Then whatever befalls me is, in a way I can not perhaps at present understand, combining for my good. In heaven, I shall see and acknowledge that all was *meant* so, and *was* so.

EVENING.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldst go.—Isaiah 48: 17.

What are the present teachings of my God—lessons enforced "by terrible things in righteousness"? He would teach me to repose in him as my Helper in trouble; to to live from hour to hour in prep-

aration for death; and to put all my trust in the merits of that Saviour, who "hath borne my griefs and carried my sorrows."

NINETEENTH MORNING.

With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us, and to fight our battles.—2 Chron. 32: 8.

What a comfort, the assurance that there is a God "judging righteously," who "girdeth us with strength unto the battle"! Let others boast in their "arm of flesh," "but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

EVENING.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?—Rom. 8: 35.

Nothing *will!* Nothing *can!* I may be seperated from friends, comrades, home, all I most love on earth; but thou, O blessed Redeemer, art always at my side. Even if death should overtake

me, it can not sever from *thee*. Thine is a love, strong as death, surviving death, enduring as eternity.

TWENTIETH MORNING.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.—Prov. 18: 10.

Every attribute of His nature is a strong bulwork in this tower —everlasting love, power, wisdom, truth, faithfulness. "Thou wilt keep him, O God, in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on theee."

EVENING.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble thou wilt revive me.—Psalm 138: 7.

May such, Lord, be my experience. I am walking in the midst of trouble—without are fightings, within are fears. "Wilt thou not revive me?" "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

TWENTY-FIRST MORNING.

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.—Rev. 1: 18.

The keys of the grave and death are in the hands of Him who *died* for me, who *lives* for me, who *pleads* for me, and (if I am suffering) who *feels* for me. With such an assurance, whether life or death be in my cup, all must be well!

EVENING.

Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel: I will help thee saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.—Isaiah 41: 14.

What a comforting promise!—"*Worm*," man in his weakness! "*Jacob*," the believer strong in his covenant security! "Fear not!" Why? I am *Jehovah*. I am thy *Remember*. I am a *Holy* God. I am the God of *Israel*, and as *such* "I will help thee."

TWENTY-SECOND MORNING.

My God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.—Phil. 4: 19.

My need is infinite, but my help is infinite; a *wise* Provider, a *kind* Provider, an *almighty* Provider,—and *all in Jesus*!

EVENING.

In the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavillion; in the secret of his tabernacle he shall hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.—Psalm 27: 5.

Lord, hide me in the clefts of the Rock of Ages until the indignation be overpast! Thy presence and love are never so precious as in the time of trouble. O God of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee!

TWENTY-THIRD MORNING.

He hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. Hosea 6: 1.

What a comfort to see no other hand but thine, O God, in all

that befalls me! Men may speak of "the bow being drawn at a venture," but the arrow's path was marked out by *thee!* I adore thy sovereignty! I rejoice in thy mercy! THOU hast torn—THOU hast smitten! THOU canst heal—THOU canst bind!

EVENING.

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.—Isaiah 53: 4.

Am I now a great sufferer? What, after all, am I enduring? Only a few ripples in the tide of woe. Whereas my Saviour has borne, and borne for *me*, all the waves and billows of wrath! In comparison with *his*, mine surely are '*light afflictions*.'

TWENTY-FOURTH MORNING.

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and he knoweth them that trust in him.—Nahum 1: 7.

God is *good*—God is *strong*—God is *mindful*. What a blessed

threefold link in the chain of divine comfort! It is in the day trouble he delights more especially to manifest his goodness. As an earthly father loves his child most in its hour of sickness and pain, so with my Father in heaven—'He knows my soul in *adversities*.'

EVENING.

Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.—Heb. 10: 37.

'A little while!' and then sorrow, suffering, tears, death, sin, will be known no more! Let me compose myself to sleep, or rest my aching head on its pillow, with the joyous thought, 'Soon to be with Christ, and that for ever and ever!'

TWENTY-FIFTH MORNING.

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.—Rev. 19: 16.

All the plans, purposes, designs, of the monarchs of the earth, are under the control of this King of kings! He is using them as instruments for the promotion of his own cause and glory. Christ holds the 'seven stars in his right hand.' He is King of his church. He is King of nations!

EVENING.

The Lord is nigh unto them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.—Psalm 34: 18.

Prayer has lost none of its efficacy! When other help and hope is gone, when the enemy is coming in like a flood, how comforting to think that 'the Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters'! This is his own recorded promise, "Call upon me in day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

TWENTY-SIXTH MORNING.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleans us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1 : 9.

Do I feel my sins the sorest of my wounds, the bitterest of my trials? My God is waiting to forgive and forget them all! He is *faithful* to do so—he is *just* to do so. He is as able as he is willing, and as willing as he is able to save!

EVENING.

He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth.—Psalm 46 : 9.

Thon, Lord! alone canst stem the tide of passion, sheathe the sword of war, and make the wrath of man to praise thee! Oh, hasten that happy time when 'violence shall no more be heard;' when 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'

TWENTY-SEVENTH MORNING.

Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.—1 Peter 5: 7.

"*He* careth!" The great Being who counts the number of the stars, numbers all my woes, and pains, and sorrows! What multiplied proofs he has given in the past that "he careth for me"! I may well confide to him the "unknown to-morrow."

EVENING.

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.—Psalm 9: 9, 10.

Do I thus "know" the name of God? It is a bulwark of strength to all his people. What tenderness! what faithfulness! what power! what love! Sheltered here, I am safe—I am happy!

TWENTY-EIGHTH MORNING.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.—Isaiah 43: 2.

"Waters," "streams," "floods," "rivers," "fire." How manifold are the trials of God's people! But he has promised to be with them *in* all, and to bear them *through* all.

EVENING.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.—Psalm 37: 5.

Is my way dark—hedged up with thorns? Let me repose in God. My times are in his hand. I could not wish them in other or better. "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

TWENTY-NINTH MORNING.

Ebenezer, hitherto hath the Lord helped us.—1 Sam. 7: 12.

Can I, too, not set up this "stone of remembrance"? How multiplied have been the tokens of God's goodness! The past is crowded with monuments and memorials of love, and patience, and forbearance. "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"

EVENING.

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord as the rivers of water; he turneth it whithersoever he will.—Prov. 21: 1.

"Kings of the earth may set themselves, and rulers may take counsel together, against the Lord." But a word, a look, from him will "bring the counsel of the heathen to naught, and make the devices of the people of none effect." "Arise, O God, and plead thine own cause."

THIRTIETH MORNING.

If, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.—1 Peter 2 : 20.

How God loves the grace of patience—unmurmuring submission to his appointments! Not regarding him as a hard master; but feeling, even when our trials seem severe, how light and trivial they are in comparison with what our sins have deserved.

EVENING.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff thy comfort me.—Psalm 23 : 4.

This may ere long be my experience. Lord Jesus, support me in my conflict with the "last enemy." Thou hast thyself trodden the Valley of Death. *Thou* hadst no friend to guide thee through. But "thy rod and thy staff"—yea, thine own presence—are pledged to comfort me!

THIRTY-FIRST MORNING.

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.—Isaiah 25: 4.

What is the blast of the terrible ones when I have such a "strong tower" as this? "Behold, God himself is with us for our Captain." "Help us, O Lord our God! for we rest on thee!"—2 *Chron.* 14: 11.

EVENING.

There shall be no night there.—Rev. 21: 26.

Soon the last shadow of life's long night of weeping shall have passed away for ever! In an unsinning and unsorrowing heaven, war, tumult, pain, sickness, battle, bloodshed, shall be words unknown. "Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? *The morning cometh.*"

MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord! thou art great, and greatly to be feared; thy greatness is unsearchable! Thou doest according to thy will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay thy hand from working; none dare say unto thee, What doest thou?

I bless thee that though thou art the greatest of all beings, thou art also the kindest and best of all. Thou art in Christ waiting to be gracious; not willing that any should perish, but that all should come unto thee and live. I desire on this, the morning of a new day, to confess at the footstool of thy throne my many sins, in all their heinousness and aggravation. Blot them out of the book of thy remem-

brance, that they may not rise up in judgment to condemn me. Enable me to love thee more, and to serve thee better. While faithful to my duties as an earthly soldier, may it be my highest ambition to be "a good soldier of Jesus Christ," to "fight the good fight of faith, and to lay hold on eternal life."

Guide, guard, protect me this day. Preserve my body from danger and my soul from sin. It is thou, Lord only who makest me to dwell in safety.

Bless my rulers and country; bless my brother soldiers and officers. Prosper our arms by sea and land, and in a righteous cause do thou lead us on to victory.

Take all my dear friends at home under thine especial care.

Give thine angels charge over them to encamp round about them, and bear them up in all their ways. Number them with thy saints in glory everlasting. These, and all other needful blessings, I ask in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

O God! I desire to draw near into thy gracious presence this evening, adoring and praising thee for the protecting care thou hast exercised toward me during another day. I am from day to day a pensioner on thy bounty. From thee I derive every comfort and blessing. I rejoice in the thought that "the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," and that all that befalls me is appointed

by thee in infinite wisdom and love.

It is my earnest prayer that I may be united by a living faith to the Saviour. I rejoice to think of the fullness and all-sufficiency of his great salvation. Oh, wash out all my transgressions in his precious blood! As I lie down to rest this night, may I have the blessed assurance that I am at peace with thee.

Lord, sanctify me wholly. May all thy present discipline lead me nearer thyself. Whether I live, may I live unto the Lord; and whether I die, may I die unto the Lord; living or dying may I be thine.

Bless all near and dear to me. May my beloved friends at a distance experience thy love, and sympathy, and care. They never

can be distant from thee, thou ever-present God. Guide them, protect them, comfort them. If I should never again meet them on earth, may we meet in that better world where parting is unknown.

Bless all my fellow-soldiers; may they ever esteem it their highest duty to fear God, while they honor their rulers. Support the weak, restore the wounded, sustain the dying. It is thou, Lord, only, who fightest our battles for us. Do thou crown our efforts with victory. "Through God we shall do valiantly, for he it is that shall tread down our enemies."

Hear these my humble supplications; and all I ask is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

A SOLDIER'S PRAYER

ON THE EVE OF BATTLE.

O God! I desire to come to the foot-stool of thy throne in this solemn hour, rejoicing in the assurance that "the Lord God omnipotent reigneth," and that the "shields of the earth" are only thine. I beseech thee mercifully to strengthen me for every trying duty. Cover my head in the day of battle. Inspire me with all needful courage in a righteous cause. Let me feel the precious conviction that life and death are in *thy* hand. "Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory, and the lifter up of my head." (Ps. iii. 3.)

Do thou conduct our valiant troops to victory! "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses,

but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

I earnestly entreat thee that, through the merits of thy dear Son, all my many sins may be forgiven. If death should overtake me in the field, may I die at peace with thee; reposing in the gracious assurance that Jesus is "able to *save unto the uttermost.*" Bless all my comrades, have mercy on their souls. Impart to them also devoted and unflinching courage in the hour of conflict.

I would more especially plead with thee in behalf of my beloved relations at a distance. If thou in thy sovereignty shouldst ordain that this be my *last* prayer for them, do thou, who art the "Father of the fatherless, the husband of the widow,"—better

than the best and dearest of earthly friends,—be their comforter, sustainer, protector, and guide. Oh, never leave and never forsake them!

Lord, my hope is in thee. I will go fearlessly in the strength of the Lord God. Keep me in the hollow of thy hand. Hide me under the shadow of thy wings. May the Lord of hosts be with us; may the God of Jacob be our refuge. Amen.

PRAYER OF A WOUNDED SOLDIER.

O God, draw near to me in the multitude of thy mercies. Pity my sufferings, relieve my distress, bind up my wounds. Thy hand is never shortened that it can not save. Do thou bring me back from the gates of death, that I

may once more be among the living to praise thee. Sanctify all thy dealings to my soul. May I be led to know more and more of the preciousness of Christ, and of his great salvation; and, if it be thy blessed will to spare me, may the life prolonged by thy bounty be given to thy service.

I pray for all my fellow-sufferers. Lord, ease their pains. Grant them relief under severe bodily anguish. Give to them and to me patience to bear whatever thy hand has laid upon us. May we, in the midst of our sufferings, remember him who, as our Redeemer, suffered infinitely greater anguish for us. Prepare my dying comrades for death. Fit them for their eternal change.

I pray for my beloved relatives and friends at home. The Lord

watch between them and me when we are absent one from another. Let them know that thou art faithful who hast promised, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Bless our rulers and country. Bless our armies by sea and land —our officers, our soldiers, our brave allies. Do thou crown a righteous cause with victory. "Arise, O Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered."

Forgive all my many sins, blot them out in the blood of Jesus. Living or dying, Lord, may I be thine. And all that I ask is for the sake of Him who is my only Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER OF A DYING SOLDIER.

O God, I beseech thee to look down upon me in thy great mercy.

I am about to leave this world. Guilty and unworthy in myself, all my hope for mercy is in the merits of Jesus Christ, my blessed Saviour. I would lay hold as a dying sinner on the precious assurance that "he is able to save unto the uttermost," and that his blood can wash away even such guilt as mine.

Oh, forgive all my past iniquities, and let me fall asleep in Jesus, in the blessed hope of eternal life. Give me patience to endure whatever I may have yet to suffer; and, as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, let me fear no evil, feeling that thou art with me.

I would especially commend to thy gracious care and keeping all my beloved relatives and friends at home. We shall meet no

more in this world; oh, may we all meet before thy throne in glory. Do thou bind up their broken hearts, and give them strength and grace to submit to thy will. Be thou their everlasting friend and portion. May they take comfort in thine own gracious promise—"Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me."

I pray for thy blessing on my fellow-soldiers. I pray for thy forgiveness to my enemies. Pity the wounded, relieve the prisoners, support the dying.

And now, Lord, what wait I for. My hope is in thee. Have thou mercy on my soul. Smooth my death pillow. Give me a peaceful entrance into the world

of spirits. Take me to thyself, to dwell for ever in glory, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my only Saviour. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.